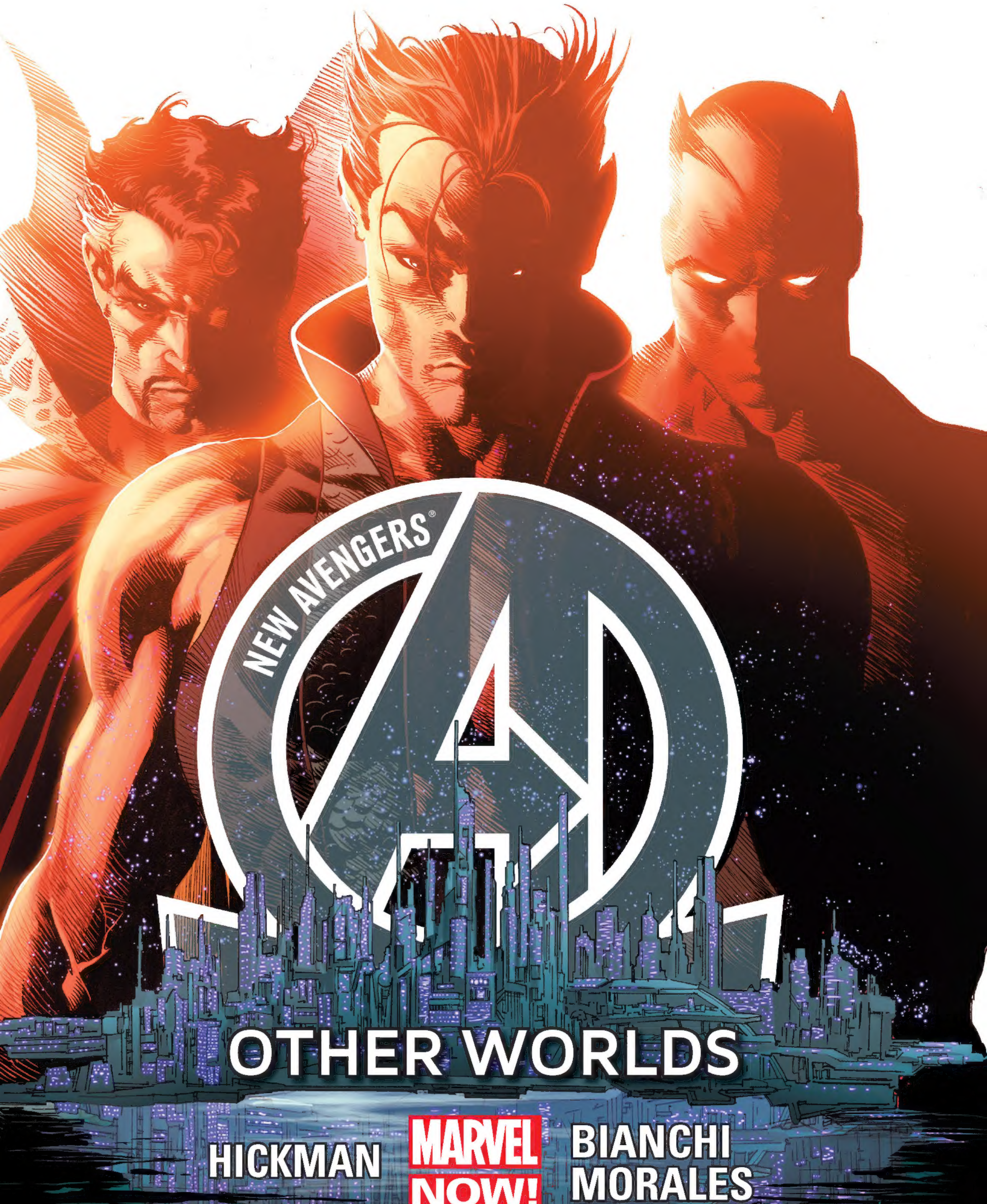
*"Jonathan Hickman goes right back to what made* New Avengers *so appealing in the first place: heady, bizarre high-concept sci-fi."*

— ComicVine.com





*"I can't think of a comic that's made me think this much in a very long time."* —ScienceFiction.com

# EVERYTHING DIES.
## WILL YOU ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE?

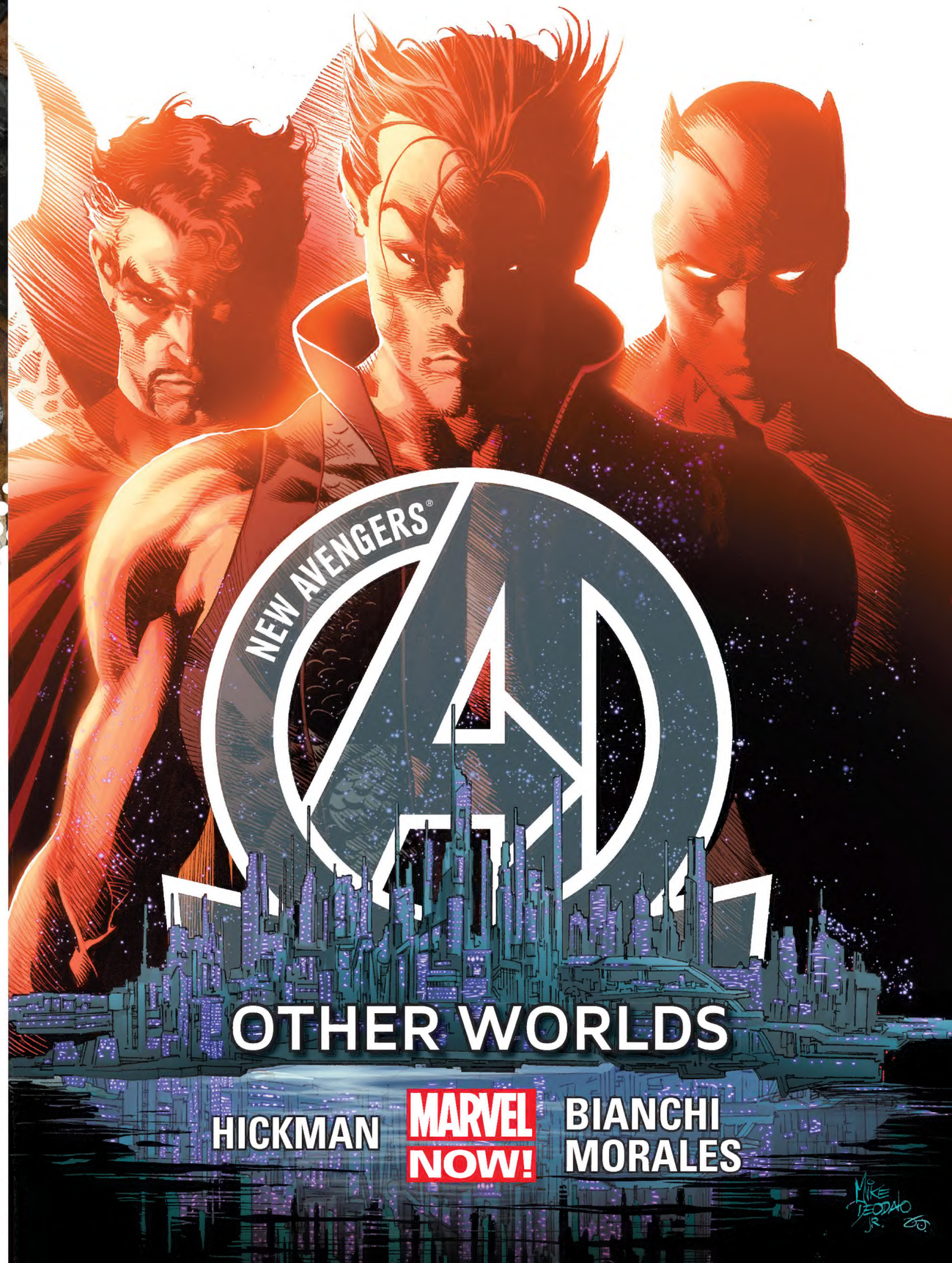
The Multiverse is collapsing. Due to an unknown event, the early death of an alternate Earth has triggered the slow collide of multiple universes. The Illuminati gathers to study the Incursion points — where multiple Earths meet on collision paths — and the other beings that threaten the Multiverse. How many worlds can the heroes save? As they meet the Mapmakers, the cartographers of the Apocalypse, they must discover the secrets of their strange companion, Black Swan. And beyond the death of everything, the ill-fated men of power face personal challenges. Black Bolt's kingdom remains in chaos. The release of the Terrigen Bomb has split the Inhumans and upset the natural world; hundreds of latent genes activated, hundreds of people transformed into Inhumans. Reed Richards must transform one of his greatest inventions in order to view the death of worlds. Knowing the balance of the worlds, Dr. Strange sells his soul. Black Panther — cast from his kingdom — seeks to end the Wakandan war with Namor's Atlantis — and take revenge for Namor's slaughter of his people. There's no turning back for the Illuminati. They'll pay the price for their sins. Must these new Avengers destroy a perfect world so that the Earth can live?

Collecting *New Avengers (2013) #13-17* — written by Jonathan Hickman, and illustrated by Simone Bianchi and Rags Morales.

T+

MARVEL

*"Jonathan Hickman goes right back to what made* New Avengers *so appealing in the first place: heady, bizarre high-concept sci-fi."*
— ComicVine.com



# INHUMANITY




MARVEL

AR

HICKMAN
BIANCHI
DALL'ALPI

013

# PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

EVERYTHING DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT. WHAT I FIND ***UNACCEPTABLE*** IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

"EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED...

"...OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

"WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THE INCURSIONS, SO AT LEAST WE'LL KNOW WHEN ONE IS COMING. HOWEVER...

"...INFINITE WORLDS, INFINITE OUTCOMES. IF THIS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED."

BLACK SWAN, YOU JUMPED HERE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, DESTROYING THE PLANET YOU CAME FROM.

THE TURN OF THE WHEEL BREAKS HOPE, CRUSHES WHAT MAKES US DECENT AND STEALS WHAT HONOR REMAINS.

WE WILL TRY EVERY GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS SOLUTION WE CAN.

AND IF THOSE DON'T WORK...?

I AM TIRED OF WATCHING OTHERS MAKE CHOICES OF CONSEQUENCE WHILE I DO NOTHING. IF I AM TO BE DAMNED BY THESE DECISIONS, LET IT BE USING ALL THE RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF A SORCERER SUPREME.

I AM NOT A PAWN.

I AM *THE DOCTOR.*

# THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



NAMOR
Imperius Rex



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder



IRON MAN
Master of Machines



BEAST
Mutant Genius



DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead



# “INHUMANITY”

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NOW.

EVERYTHING DIES.

YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET.

OUR SUN, OUR GALAXY AND, EVENTUALLY, THE UNIVERSE ITSELF.

THIS IS SIMPLY HOW THINGS ARE.

IT'S INEVITABLE.

AND I ACCEPT IT.

WHAT I WILL NOT TOLERATE-- WHAT I FIND *UNACCEPTABLE*--IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

WHICH IS WHY WE WERE SUMMONED HERE...

BLACK PANTHER (T'CHALLA)

IRON MAN

CAPTAIN MAR-VELL

BLACK BOLT

MAGNETO

BLACK PANTHER (SHURI)

PROFESSOR X

AS THE UNTIMELY END OF EVERYTHING IS WHAT WE NOW FACE.

EARTH-23099.

THE WORLD CHANGED OVERNIGHT AS THE GREAT MACHINE CAUSED CASCADING GLOBAL TERRIGENESIS.

MAXIMUS, KING OF THE INHUMANS, HAD CREATED THE WELL TO INDUCE THE GREAT CHANGE...

AND TO USHER IN A NEW DAY FOR HIS EXPANDING KINGDOM.

THE ROYAL FAMILY WATCHED AS ALL THE UNCHANGED--THE LOST TRIBES AND THE HIDDEN ONES--BEGAN TO METAMORPHOSE AS THE MIST--THE TRANSFORMATIVE FALLOUT--SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE START OF A NEW INHUMAN AGE.

INSTEAD, IT MARKED THE END OF THE WORLD.

THE INCURSION POINT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CENTER OF THE CITY...

WE HAVE A FULL CLOCK, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THE INHUMANS WILL COMPLICATE THINGS.

POSSIBLE? ASSURED IS MORE LIKELY. AFTER ALL, WE COUNT THEIR EXCOMMUNICANT LEADER AMONG OUR NUMBER.

CAST OUT FOR OUR ACTIONS--ACTIONS THAT WE MAY VERY WELL HAVE TO REPLICATE TODAY...

THE INCURSION WALL IS HERE.

LOOK!

THERE...FALLING TOWARDS US FROM THE OTHER EARTH...

WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR ACTIONS HERE TODAY.

"THEIR WORLD WILL NOT FALL QUIETLY TOWARDS OBLIVION."

WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.
EARTH-616.

NAHU, YABBOT. YOU ARE NOT LISTENING.

MUST I SPEAK SLOWER?

OR SHALL I USE SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER WORDS?

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS WHERE YOU COME FROM, BLACK SWAN, BUT HERE... CONSTRAINED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS THAT GOVERN THIS UNIVERSE...

YOU CAN'T ASK A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT'S "BASICALLY A LOOKING BOX POWERED BY PERCEPTION AND NECESSITY."

THAT'S JUST GIBBERISH, LADY.

MAYBE A DIFFERENT TACK. WE COULD WORK BACKWARDS. REVERSE-ENGINEER THE IDEA.

FIRST THINGS FIRST, BEFORE WE INVEST TIME WE ALL KNOW WE DON'T HAVE...

WHY DO WE NEED IT-- AND WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT DO?

YOU NEED IT BECAUSE WITHOUT IT YOU REMAIN AT A DISADVANTAGE. YOU NEED IT BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE IT.

AND WHO WOULD *THEY* BE?

IT COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES YOU WILL SHORTLY FACE, BUT YOU SHOULD PRIMARILY CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH THE BLACK PRIESTS.

AS THEY TEND TO MOVE THROUGH SPACE AND TIME THE WAY YOU WOULD--SO THEY USE THE *MIRRORS* TO NAVIGATE THEIR WAY.

SO IT'S A WAY TO VIEW THINGS--A *MIRROR*, AS IT HAS A FACE... MEANING A SCREEN OF SOME SORT...

GO ON. WHAT DOES IT DO?

IT ALLOWS YOU TO SEE OTHER EARTHS.

SO...WE'RE TALKING ABOUT COMPLEX RATES OF OCCURANCE--UNIVERSAL OSCILLATIONS OR WAVES. THAT KIND OF ARCHITECTURE DEMANDS SOME VARIATION OF A QUANTUM DRIVE. EITHER A POWER SOURCE OR A CONVERTER... SOMETHING.

WHAT ELSE?

IF YOU USE A MIRROR, AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...

*VARIABLES. PARAMETERS.*

***NEEDS.*** THEN YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRI--

OH.

DAMN.

WHAT IS IT, REED?

THESE OBSERVATIONS. WE'D BASICALLY BE LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC FREQUENCY. SCANNING THE HARMONICS FOR A CONSTANT.

IN OUR CASE, OTHER INCURSIONS.

IT WOULD WORK BECAUSE ALL INCURSIONS HAVE THE SAME PARAMETERS AND CAN BE FOUND AND OBSERVED THROUGH A PROCESS OF...CALL IT INFINITE ELIMINATION.

*YES. THE MIRROR.*

YOU UNDERSTAND.

OF COURSE I DO.

I CAN EVEN BUILD IT.

OH, REALLY? NOT GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF YOURSELF, ARE YOU?

UNFORTUNATELY, NO.

I'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE BEFORE, ANTHONY. WHAT SHE CALLS A MIRROR...

...I CALLED THE BRIDGE.

"THE IDEA OF LIGHT AND DARK--GOOD AND EVIL--CHAOS AND ORDER...I CALL THESE INTO QUESTION.

"THAT THESE CONCEPTS DEFINE THE EDGES OF ALL THAT EXISTS IS CONTRARY TO THE WRITINGS FOUND IN THE BLU'DAKORR.

"THE BLOOD BIBLE SPEAKS OF IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES...OF GOODS GREATER THAN GOOD... OF DARKS DARKER THAN DARK...

"THESE IMPERCEPTIBLE STATES LIE BEYOND THE NORMAL UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH THE NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL.

"THEY DO SO BECAUSE TO PERCEIVE THEM, ONE MUST ABANDON FOREVER THE OLD WAYS IN WHICH WE SAW ALL THINGS.

"ONE MUST SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.

"I WILL PLUCK OUT MY OWN EYES IF IT MEANS I CAN SEE AGAIN.

"I WILL TEAR OUT MY OWN TONGUE IF IT MEANS I COULD ONCE MORE UTTER WORDS OF POWER.

"IF IT COST MY VERY SOUL TO HAVE THESE THINGS... THEN SO BE IT.

"I AM READY TO PAY."

EARTH-23099.

GRRR

I'M BACK!!

TINK. TINK. TINK.

SSSS

THEY SEEM UNAFFECTED BY THE POWER COSMIC...

RESILIENT-- RE-FORMING INSTEAD OF SPLINTERING APART.

BLACK BOLT!

RAISE YOUR VOICE!

TINK. TINK. TINK.

SSSS

SSSS

NO EFFECT, CHARLES!

WHOEVER THESE CREATURES ARE, MAGNETO...THEIR PURPOSE MUST PARALLEL OURS REGARDING THE INCURSIONS.

IF THEY PLAN AND SCHEME, THEY CAN BE CONTROLLED. AND IF NOT CONTROLLED, THEN PERHAPS I CAN FATHOM WHAT THEIR...

AMBITIONS MIGHT...BE...

FIIIIND ANYTHIIIIING IIIIINTERESTIIIING?

MY GOD...

NOT ONE MIND, BUT THOUSANDS...TENS OF THOUSANDS. UNFATHOMABLE.

WE HAVE NO TIME FOR MYSTERIES, CHARLES...

LET'S UNCOVER WHAT THESE CREATURES REALLY ARE.

WE SEE YOU.

WE SEE YOU.

WE SEE YOU.

WE SEE YOU.

WE SEE YOU.

NECROPOLIS.

"ARE YOU SURE THIS WILL WORK?"

OF COURSE.

THE ORIGINAL DESIGN HAD A CONTAINED SINGULARITY POWERING AN UNCERTAINTY ENGINE. ATTACHED TO THAT WAS A VARIABLE IMAGER TO ACCURATELY INTERPRET DATA MINED FROM ALTERNATE REALITIES.

THE IDEA WAS AN OBSERVATION DEVICE TO SEE HOW PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED ON OTHER EARTHS.

LIMIT WHAT YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR...

CLEARLY DEFINE THE PARAMETERS...

AND YOU CAN WATCH THE GLORIOUS DEATH OF UNIVERSES AS EARTH CRASHES INTO EARTH.

RABUM ALAL BE PRAISED.

WELL...I'M NOT SURE IMPRESSIVE IS THE RIGHT WORD... STILL...

HOW COULD WE COME SO FAR AND NOT TAKE A LOOK?

EARTH-23099.

MATTER REORGANIZATION IMPLIES NO ORGANS, WHICH DEMANDS A RETHINKING REGARDING WEAKNESS.

IT DEMANDS A RETHINKING REGARDING THE LAWS BY WHICH THEY ARE GOVERNED.

NOT CREATURES OF SCIENCE...BUT MAGIC.

HRRRNNNN.

SCIIIIIENCE. MAGIIIIC.

THESE CONCEPTS ARE... AMUSIIIIIIIG.

A LESSON FOR YOU, DEFENDERS OF A SOON DYIIIIIIG WORLD.

IIIIIIGNORE DIIIISCIIIIPLIIIIINES, THE UNDERPIIIIINIIIIG OF ALL THIIIIIIINGS IIIIIIS MUCH SIIIIIMPLER. ALL THAT MATTERS ARE THE WORDS...

ALL OTHER THIIIIINGS ARE BEST LEFT UNSPOKEN.

AAIIEEEEEEE!

ESO

UUOOAHHHHHHHHHH...

SO IIIIT IIIIIIS...AS IIIIT ALWAYS IIIIIIIS.

MANY CANNOT ENDURE THE WORDS.

ARE THERE OTHERS HERE WE NEED TO SPEAK WIIIITH BEFORE WE CLAIIIIIIM THIIIIIS SPACE?

HRRRNNN... WATCHERS WATCHIIIIING... THERE'S A MIIIIRROR ACTIIIIVE HERE.

IIIIIIIIS THAT YOU LOOKIIIIIG ON, MAPMAKERS?

OR DO I HAVE THE HONOR OF ADDRESSIIIIIG AN EBONY KIIIIIIIIG?

A DAY IIIIIS COMIIIIING-- CONVERGENCE.

AND ON THAT DAY, THE FIIIIINAL WORD WIIIIILL BE SPOKEN.

IIIIIF ALL THAT YOU HAVE BELIIIIIEVED HAS LED YOU TO A PLACE OPPOSIIIIIING US... THE BLACK PRIIIIESTS...

"THEN YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELVES...

"WHAT VALUE DOES YOUR LIIIIIFE HAVE AT ALL?

"WHAT HOPE IIIIIS THERE?"

NEW AVENGERS

# THE ASSEMBLY!

## YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

Have we got an extra-special X-Mas present for you! On December 24th, **AVENGERS #24.NOW** kicks off the next wave of ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW! titles! It's an oversized epic from Jonathan Hickman and Esad Ribic, a self-contained story that sets elements into motion that'll culminate in…but that would be telling! It's also available with Daniel Acuña's amazing six-foot AVENGERS 50th Anniversary poster, showcasing the whole blamed line-up! And this is just the first of what will be a bevy of all-star new releases from our best and brightest that will be coming your way in the opening months of 2014! Just look for the big confusing #1 on the cover, and you'll know you're where it's at!






*(Couldn't even fit the whole image! It's HUGE!)*

As if any more evidence were necessary to prove that Avengers mania is taking over the world, the whole White family took the opportunity to assemble this past Halloween! Left to right, we've got Charles, 8; Judi, 12; Kira, 9; Rachel, 6; Ethan, 11; and David, 8! Looking good, kids!



Hey! Here's a letter!

*Hi! This is Matthew Sean and I am eleven years old. I've been reading Marvel Comics since as long as I can remember. I've read just about every series since 2005. And let me just say… UNCANNY AVENGERS is my all-time favorite!!!! It rocks! Not only does it have great dialogue by Rick, it also has great covers by John Cassaday, and awesome art. Keep it up.*

*Matthew Sean*

*P.S. It would be awesome if I get an e-mail back or even better… the letter of the month on UNCANNY AVENGERS #13.*

Yeah, that would be pretty cool, Matthew! But what are the chances that it'll happen?

## NEXT ISSUE:




## AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

**AVENGERS #24.NOW**
ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW! IS HERE AND SO IS A ROGUE PLANET ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH!

**AVENGERS AI #7.INH**
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! GUEST-STARRING DAREDEVIL!

**AVENGERS ANNUAL #1**
IT'S X-MAS EVE IN AVENGERS TOWER—AND MORE THAN MICE ARE STIRRING!

**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #22.INH**
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! SPIDER-WOMAN, THE HULK AND SPIDER-GIRL ON THE TRAIL OF A NEW INHUMAN!

**MIGHTY AVENGERS #4.INH**
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! THE BIRTH OF RONIN! AND SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN DEMANDS LEADERSHIP!

**NEW AVENGERS #13.INH**
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! WHO ARE THE BLACK PRIESTS OF THE INCURSIONS?

**SECRET AVENGERS #12**
HOW TO MAIM A MOCKINGBIRD!

**SECRET AVENGERS #13**
A TRAITOR AMONG THE AVENGERS IS REVEALED!

**UNCANNY AVENGERS #15**
THE WASP VS THE SENTRY! REALLY? REALLY!

**YOUNG AVENGERS #13**
THE FINAL THROWDOWN WITH MOTHER AND HER YOUNG AVENGERS!

**YOUNG AVENGERS #14**
THE NEW YEAR'S AFTER-PARTY! GUEST-STARRING ALMOST EVERY YOUNG HERO THERE IS!

**A + X #15**
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS, PLUS DOCTOR STRANGE AND THE BEAST!

**ALSO ON SALE!**

**MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #3**

NEW AVENGERS

MARVEL

AR

HICKMAN
BIANCHI
DALL'ALPI

014

# PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

EVERYTHING DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT. WHAT I FIND ***UNACCEPTABLE*** IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

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YOU WILL NEED THE MIRROR FOR ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES, BUT YOU SHOULD PRIMARILY CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH THE BLACK PRIESTS.

*BLACK SWAN, YOU CAN'T ASK A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS TO BUILD SOME "MIRROR" THAT'S BASICALLY A LOOKING BOX POWERED BY PERCEPTION AND NECESSITY.*

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YOU UNDERSTAND. IF YOU USE THE MIRROR AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...

"...YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRING."

I AM TIRED OF WATCHING OTHERS MAKE CHOICES OF CONSEQUENCE WHILE I DO NOTHING. IF I AM TO BE DAMNED BY THESE DECISIONS, LET IT BE BY USING ALL THE RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF A SORCERER SUPREME.

I AM NOT A PAWN.

I AM *THE DOCTOR.*

# THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT

Celestial Messiah



NAMOR

Imperius Rex



REED RICHARDS

Universal Builder



IRON MAN

Master of Machines



BEAST

Mutant Genius



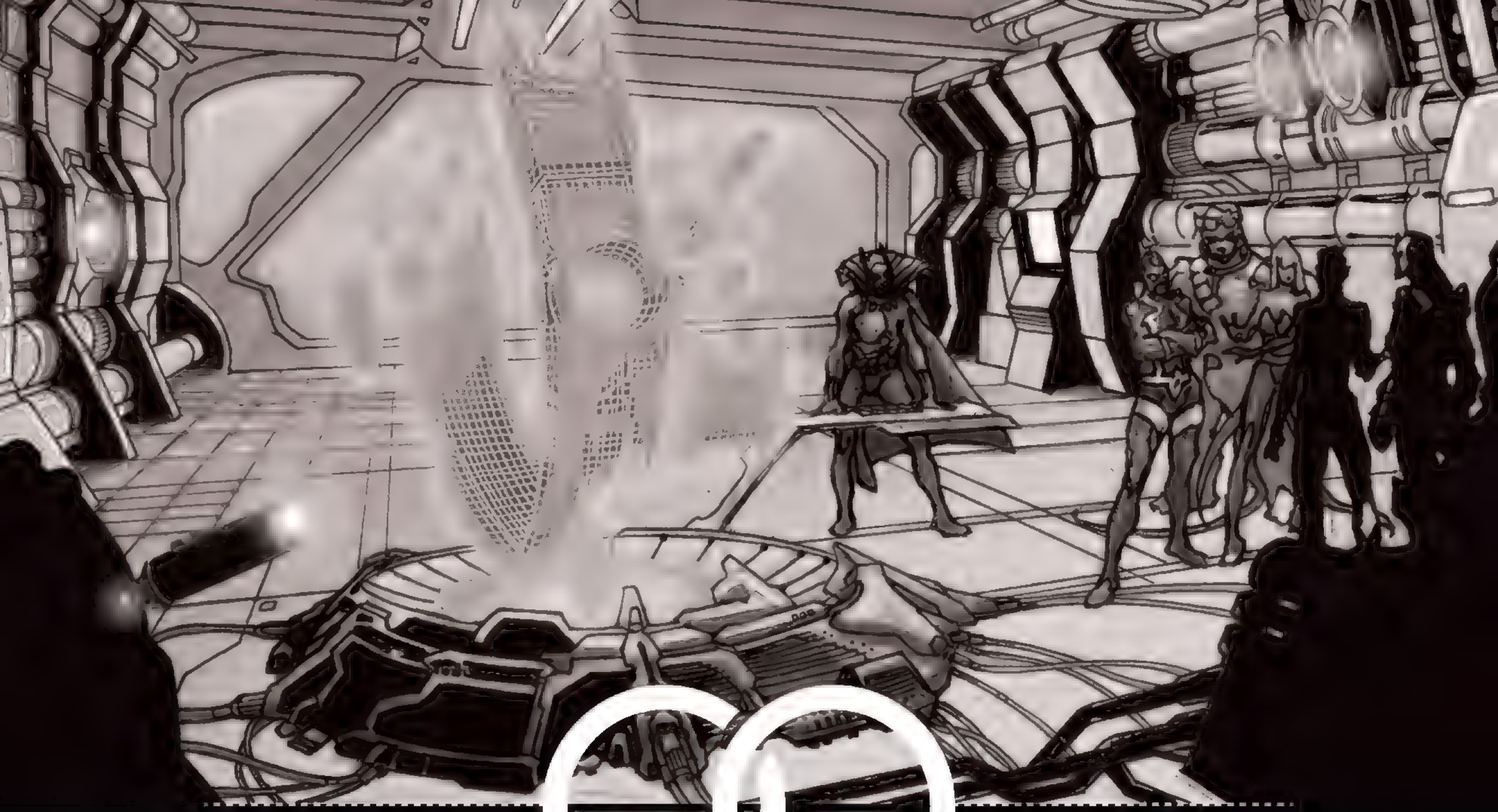
DOCTOR STRANGE

Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER

King of the Dead



# 00

## "THE AGAMOTTO GAMBIT"


WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN

ARTIST: SIMONE BIANCHI

COLOR ARTIST: ADRIANO DALL'ALPI

LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

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IT'S INEVITABLE.

AND I ACCEPT IT.

YELLOWJACKET

CAPTAIN BRITAIN (BETSY BRADDOCK)

CAPTAIN BRITAIN (BRIAN BRADDOCK)

IRON MAN

BLACK PANTHER

WHAT I WILL NOT TOLERATE-- WHAT I FIND *UNACCEPTABLE*--IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

WHICH IS WHY WE WERE SUMMONED HERE...

DR. DOOM

EMMA FROST

AS THE UNTIMELY END OF EVERYTHING IS WHAT WE NOW FACE.

*EARTH-2319.*
*(UNDER OBSERVATION.)*

THE FOURTH AGE OF APOCALYPSE ENDED WITH THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY-NATION OF TIAN AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE PHOENIX EGGS.

MAGNETO, SAVIOR OF ALL MUTANTS, HAD GATHERED THE SURVIVORS OF THE WORLD'S SECOND HOLOCAUST AND BROUGHT THEM TO HIS NEW KINGDOM.

A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN, WHERE ALL HIS ANGELS WOULD BE SAFE...

SAFE FROM ALL THE DEVILS THAT STILL HUNTED THEM.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER WORLD.

INSTEAD, IT WAS SOON TO BE NO WORLD AT ALL.

THE INCURSION POINT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN TIAN'S TWIN CITIES...

WE HAVE A FULL CLOCK, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THE MUTANTS WILL COMPLICATE THINGS.

POSSIBLE? ASSURED IS MORE LIKELY. AFTER ALL, HOW MANY OF US STOOD BY AND DID NOTHING--NOT EVEN OFFERING A HELPING HAND?

FITTING THAT THEY MIGHT HOLD THE KEY TO OUR SALVATION IN THEIRS...

THE INCURSION WALL IS HERE.

LOOK!

THERE...FALLING TOWARDS US FROM THE OTHER EARTH...

WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR ACTIONS HERE TODAY.

"THIS WORLD WILL NOT FALL QUIETLY TOWARDS OBLIVION."

THE LOST LANDS.

ANCIENT... BEYOND ANCIENT...

OLD AS MEMORY ARE THE RULES BY WHICH THIS PLACE IS GOVERNED.

HERE, THERE ARE NO SECRET DEALS OR HIDDEN ARRANGEMENTS TO BE HAD--THERE IS ONLY THE TRANSACTION AND NOTHING ELSE.

YOU UNDERSTAND OUR CURRENCY, DON'T YOU?

I DO.

THEN NAME YOURSELF AND WHAT IT IS YOU DESIRE.

I AM DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE...THE SORCERER SUPREME, AND I AM HERE TO BUY.

HOW WONDERFUL.

WELL THEN, MORTAL...

WELCOME.

WELCOME TO THE SINNER'S MARKET.

AS YOU CAN SEE...WE DO A GREAT DEAL OF BUSINESS.

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW DEALERS OF THE LIGHTER FARE, BUT AS OUR NAME SUGGESTS, THE MARKET HAS A TENDENCY TO SKEW DARK... NECROMANCY, DEMIONICS, ETC., ETC.

THAT IT WERE SO SIMPLE. OVER TIME, I HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BLACK AND WHITE ARTS.

THERE IS ONLY THE PRICE... WHICH IS ALWAYS STEEP.

YES. ABOUT THAT. A SMALL PIECE OF ADVICE BEFORE WE BEGIN...

THE MARKET TENDS TO ADAPT TO THE BUYER--THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE MORE THINGS WILL CATCH YOUR EYE. SO SPECIFICITY WILL SERVE YOU WELL.

I IMPLORE YOU, DOCTOR...GUARD YOUR HEART AGAINST WANTS AND FOCUS ON WHAT YOU TRULY NEED.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE FINDS THEMSELVES IN THIS PLACE WITHOUT THEM BEING THE SAME?

FUHL-MAHGAHL. THE MIND WANDERS... WHO CAN SAY?

SHALL WE?

YES.

VERY WELL...

WHAT IS IT EXACTLY THAT YOU WISH TO BUY TODAY? LONGEVITY?

BLISS?

LOVE?

NO...NONE OF THESE THINGS.

WHAT THEN?

I WANT POWER.

POWER? BUT YOU HAVE SO MUCH ALREADY.

I NEED MORE.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO MOVE WORLDS AND SHAKE THEM TO THEIR FOUNDATIONS. I WANT ENOUGH POWER IN MY HANDS TO TEAR PLANETS FROM THE HEAVENS AND PLACE THEM IN A NEW SKY.

OH. I SEE.

YOU'LL BE WANTING THE THRONE THEN.

FAIR ENOUGH. THIS WAY.

EARTH-2319.
[UNDER OBSERVATION.]

THE SIDERA MARIS ARE THE FORERUNNERS OF THE MAPMAKERS.

BRIDGE-BUILDING AUTOMATONS WHO USE INCURSIONS TO MARK NEW TERRITORY FOR THEIR MASTERS.

THESE SOLDIER SURVEYORS WERE CREATED TO MARK TERRITORY...NOT FOR LONGEVITY. THEY ARE COMBAT FODDER, MEANT ONLY TO ENDURE LONG ENOUGH TO CALL THEIR MASTERS.

GRIST FOR THE MULTIVERSAL MILL.

INCURSION ACHIEVED, BUT RESISTANCE THREATENS MISSION SUCCESS.

MAPPING WORLD... AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

FWASSHH

NEW WORLDS.

NEVER ENOUGH WORLDS.

INCURSION POINT ANALYSIS?

THREAT LEVEL: ASSESSING...

POSTHUMAN DENSITY: ELEVATED.

"CATALOGING..."

THREAT LEVEL: OMEGA.

ADAPTING...

GENETIC MARKERS DEFINED.

LAUNCHING GENE SPECIFIC NEUTRALIZER.

"RE-CODING MESSENGER RNA AS ATEMPORAL."

NOOOOO...

MY GOD!

INITIAL THREAT CONTAINED.

INCURSION POINT DESTABILIZING...

WORLD MAPPED. ANCHOR PLANET NO LONGER NECESSARY...

TERMINATING WORLD.

TERTIARY THREATS... ANALYZING.

PREPARE TO HARVEST WORLD... NO RECOGNIZABLE THREATS DETECTED.

GO HOME, REMAINING HUMANS...WE PERMIT YOUR EXODUS.

YOU PERMIT US...?

ARE WE ON BENDED KNEE? ARE WE BEATEN?

NO!

QUICKLY! YOU ALL SAW WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF!

DON'T HOLD BACK!

IS IT PRIMAL INSTINCT? THIS VIOLENT REACTION TO DEATH?

IT TAKES WEEKS FOR US TO FULLY HARVEST A WORLD. YOU COULD HAVE *THAT* INSTEAD OF THIS... *NOTHING.*

WORLD AFTER WORLD AFTER WORLD...THIS IS WHAT YOU BIONISMS CHOOSE.

ONE CANNOT HIT FINALITY.

HURK!

INTERESTING...

ANALYZING... TRACES OF NON-NATIVE ATOMIC TYPES... QUANTUM SIGNATURES...

YOU POSSESS THE ABILITY TO TRAVERSE THE MULTIVERSE. WHY WOULD YOU FAIL TO RUN?

I DON'T RUN.

AND IF I OFFER YOU DEATH OR FLIGHT?

I DON'T RUN.

VERY WELL.

WHAT ARE YO--

BZZZTT!

VICTOR! WE'VE LOST EVERYONE BUT ANTHONY...AND I THINK HE'S OUT OF COMMISSION.

WE NEED TO PULL BACK AND CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

THERE IS NO WITHDRAWING FROM THE CENTER OF A BATTLE, REED. WE DARE NOT SHOW THESE CREATURES OUR BACKS.

BESIDES...

WHY FLEE FROM THAT WHICH CAN BE CONQUERED?

OMEGA-LEVEL THREAT DETECTED.

THAT MAKER ACHIEVED CONSCIOUSNESS ONE HUNDRED CYCLES AGO. IT MAPPED THOUSANDS OF EARTHS.

IT WAS... IRREPLACEABLE.

PRIORITY OVERRIDE.

LOSS OF FULL HARVEST... ACCEPTABLE.

VICTOR! LOOK OUT!

AAEEEEEEE!

DAY BY DAY...

YEAR BY YEAR...

WORLD BY WORLD...

THE IDEA OF WHO YOU ARE, AND WHAT YOU STOOD FOR, WILL CRUMBLE AND DECAY BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR LONG ENOUGH...

AND ONE DAY YOU WON'T RECOGNIZE THE MAN LOOKING BACK AT YOU.

EVERYTHING DIES.

THE SINNER'S MARKET.

HERE WE ARE...JUST AS I PROMISED.

THE RESOLUTE THRONE IS JUST INSIDE. ONE CANNOT ENTER TWICE, SO I MAY NOT ENTER AT ALL.

I WISH YOU LUCK... AND THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BARTER WISELY.

HI.

HELLO. I'M LOOKING FOR--

YES. THE THRONE.

YOU DO SEE THE GIANT THRONE BESIDE ME AND NOT MUCH ELSE IN THE ROOM, RIGHT?

YOU'RE LIKE THE THIRD MOST DISAPPOINTING SORCERER SUPREME I'VE EVER MEET, STEPHEN...

...AND THIS DIDN'T END WELL FOR THE OTHER TWO.

HAVE A SEAT.

HOW MANY OTHERS WERE THERE?

OH, JUST THE THREE... BUT YOU'RE STILL BREATHING, YOU SEE?

SO... YOU'RE WINNING BY DEFAULT.

YOU'VE COME FOR POWER, YES?

I HAVE.

IT'S A CLEANER TRANSACTION THAN THE OTHER PRINCIPALITIES WE TRADE IN. THAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

THE SIMPLER THE DEAL FOR THE LADY, THE LESS CHANCE FOR CONFUSION.

THE PROBLEM IS, WITH POWER THE COST IS HIGH...AND THE PAYMENT CANNOT BE DEFERRED, TRANSFERRED, OR SCREWED WITH IN ANY MANNER.

IF YOU OWE, *YOU OWE.*

HOW MUCH?

THAT DEPENDS ON THE PROPORTIONS...

WE DEAL IN DEGREES OF GODHOOD. MAN IS WHOLE AND IN FULL POSSESSION OF HIS SOUL...THIS IS HER PRICE. WE BARTER BY FIFTHS...AS THIS IS THE NUMBER OF MAN.

FOR THE SLOW AND UNLEARNED: IF YOU WANT TO HAVE TWENTY PERCENT OF THE POWER OF A GOD, IT WILL COST YOU ONE-FIFTH OF YOUR SOUL.

SO ARE YOU SELLING YOUR SOUL, STEPHEN?

I AM.

*HOW MUCH?*

HOW MUCH OF YOUR SOUL DO YOU SELL THIS DAY?

ALL OF IT.

NEW AVENGERS

# THE ASSEMBLY!

## YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

He walked away with the Avengers film! And now, the silver-tongued prince of lies is starring in his own All-New Marvel Now! series: **LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD**! Written by **MIGHTY AVENGERS'** own Al Ewing and illustrated by Lee Garbett, the God of Mischief has a new mission, a new weapon, and a new outlook on life. But still, some things never change! And don't be surprised if you spot a few of Earth's Mightiest guest-stars in the pages of the first issue! It's Loki, the lord of larceny, just the way you like him best! (Hey, would we lie to you?)




It's changing-of-the-guard time here at Avengers headquarters! First, Lauren Sankovitch, who distinguished herself as the editorial top kick of such titles as **THOR: GOD OF THUNDER**, **YOUNG AVENGERS**, **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** and **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** has left our hallowed halls to seek fame and fortune in far-off Los Angeles! Look for El Sank to be transitioning into the world of television -- and not merely watching it! Stepping into her sensible shoes is Marvel newcomer Wil Moss, who made his bones across town working on such series as THE FLASH, GREEN ARROW and SUICIDE SQUAD, and who'll be bringing the same magic to the new **SECRET AVENGERS** and **AVENGERS WORLD**, among other assignments! So consider your scorecards updated!

And now, it's time for your favorite and ours: the Letter of the Month:

*Dearest comics-makin' folks,*

*This is a long letter, and I apologize in advance for that, but I promise it's full of good happy words.*

*I've been reading comics in some form or another since I was able to read anything. My dad, having mostly moved towards "indie" comics by the time I came around, didn't have any super hero books for me to read, but he'd always tell me about the fun and freaky adventures he remembered from growing up on the Fantastic Four and the Mighty Thor. His wife at the time worked at the American Cancer Society, and one day she came home with an anti-smoking comic they had recently reprinted, which I dutifully read over and over and over.*

*Yes, my first Marvel comic was Spider-Man, Storm, and Power Man Battle Smokescreen. Let it be a testament to the impact this book had on me that I have literally never touched a cigarette in my life.*

*Ever since then, I've been adding to my Marvel collection at an increasing rate. From odd issues picked up at antique stores, to my first month-by-month book in the FANTASTIC FOUR run by Mark Waid and the much-missed Mike Wieringo, to today, where I work at what's widely considered one of the best comic shops in the country. Even with the incredible explosion of output from other publishers, Marvel books still make up a solid half of what I take home every week.*

*Recently, you announced a slew of new titles, several of them starring or prominently featuring female characters. As a woman, I was obviously thrilled at the news, especially at the preview covers that looked blissfully not like the eye-roll-worthy pinups I've come to expect from your competition.*

*These past couple of years have also seen characters from other oft-neglected groups (and combinations thereof) either debut or come back into the spotlight after lengthy absences. YOUNG AVENGERS is one of the few pieces of "teen media" that actually feels like the teens I know. The strong characterization in MIGHTY AVENGERS has shot Al Ewing to the top of my "read everything he does" list. And I swear to god if you guys are canceling the Ultimate line like everyone thinks you are you better get Miles Morales and whatever remains of his supporting cast out of there because that boy is a treasure.*

*Now, there are spoil-sports out there who like to mock these kinds of books. Spoil-sports who say that these titles are "too niche", that there aren't enough women/queer/POC readers to support them. (Because what straight white man would bother reading about characters outside his immediate experience, amirite dudes?)*

*Alas, it's a sad certainty that characters like the new Ms. Marvel will never sell as many units as, say, the main SPIDER-MAN title. But neither will Moon Knight, or Wonder Man, or Taskmaster. With so many readers crunched for cash or only interested in "important" books, any B-or-less-List character is starting with the odds stacked against them, whatever their skin color or pronoun preference.*

*(This isn't me saying "no" to a Taskmaster solo, by the way.)*

*So thank you, Marvel.*

*Thank you for filling your lineup not just with regurgitations of the same template, but with books that vary in tone and theme and style.*

*Thank you for having women who reflect many different kinds of womanhood, who can be smart or silly or straight-laced as the situation demands.*

*Thank you for having characters of all sorts of races and ethnicities, and of multiple races and ethnicities, who have the full respect of their peers.*

*Thank you for having gay, lesbian, and bi characters who aren't just jokes or fanservice fodder but real people with hopes and fears and complex relationships.*

*Thank you for having disabled characters who play an important role in your stories, both as members of a hero's supporting cast and as heroes in their own right.*

*Thank you for not having much in the way of trans representation yet, but creating the kind of environment where I truly can see it happening, and eagerly await the day that it does.*

*Thank you for living up to the idea that not just any person, but any kind of person, can be a hero.*

*Your Fan Forever,*
*Angelica Brenner*

## NEXT ISSUE:



**STONE COLD!**

## AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

**AVENGERS #26**
THE CRY IS ADAPT OR DIE AS THE ALL-NEW AVENGERS TAKE THE FIGHT TO A.I.M.!

**AVENGERS A.I. #9**
GUEST-STARRING THE UNCANNY AVENGERS, AS OUR HEROES INVADE THE DIAMOND!

**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #24**
IRON MAN AND SPIDER-GIRL JOIN FORCES TO RESCUE A NEW INHUMAN!

**AVENGERS WORLD #3**
SHANG-CHI IN A BRUTAL ONE-ON-ONE CONFRONTATION WITH THE GORGON!

**MIGHTY AVENGERS #6**
THE FALCON ON THE HUNT! LUKE AND ADAM IN EACH OTHER'S FACES!

**MIGHTY AVENGERS #7**
THE WHITE TIGER STALKS THE MAN WHO KILLED HER BROTHER!

**NEW AVENGERS #15**
MEET THE MAPMAKERS, CARTOGRAPHERS OF THE APOCALYPSE!

**SECRET AVENGERS #15**
AN UNEXPECTED DEATH BEGINS THE FINAL CURTAIN FOR THE CLANDESTINE TEAM!

**SECRET AVENGERS #16**
FINAL ISSUE! WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE?

**UNCANNY AVENGERS #17**
EVERY AVENGER ON EARTH JOINS FORCES TO PREVENT THE END OF THE WORLD!

**A + X #17**
IRON MAN AND BROO, PLUS THE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS EPIC CONTINUES!

**ALSO ON SALE!**

**MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #6**




MARVEL
CAPTAIN AMERICA
THE WINTER SOLDIER
IN THEATERS APRIL 4

# PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

EVERYTHING DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT. WHAT I FIND ***UNACCEPTABLE*** IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

"EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED, OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

"WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THE INCURSIONS SO WE'LL KNOW WHEN ONE IS COMING. HOWEVER...

"INFINITE WORLDS, INFINITE OUTCOMES. IF THIS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED."

BLACK SWAN. I'M TOLD YOU JUMPED HERE FROM ANOTHER WORLD...THAT YOU HAD SOME KIND OF DEVICE, AND THEN YOU DESTROYED THE PLANET YOU CAME FROM.

THE TURN OF THE WHEEL BREAKS HOPE--IT CRUSHES WHAT MAKES US DECENT AND STEALS WHAT LITTLE HONOR REMAINS.

WE WILL TRY EVERY GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS SOLUTION WE CAN.

AND WHEN THOSE DON'T WORK?

YOU WILL NEED THE MIRROR FOR ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES, BUT YOU SHOULD PRIMARILY CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH THE BLACK PRIESTS.

ALL INCURSIONS HAVE THE SAME PARAMETERS AND CAN BE FOUND AND OBSERVED THROUGH A PROCESS. I CAN BUILD IT. I'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE BEFORE. WHAT SHE CALLS A MIRROR, I CALLED THE BRIDGE.

YOU UNDERSTAND. IF YOU USE THE MIRROR AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...

"...YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRING."

# THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



NAMOR
Imperius Rex



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder



IRON MAN
Master of Machines



BEAST
Hero of Legend



DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead



BLACK SWAN
Incursion Survivor



MAXIMUS
Inhuman Madman



# 6

## "SEE HOW THE SWANS FLY"

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WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.

WHY ARE WE MISSING PEOPLE?

I SPOKE WITH NAMOR. HE SAID THAT UNLESS THE WORLD WAS ENDING, HE WOULD RETURN LATER IN THE WEEK.

I TRIED TO CONVEY HOW URGENT THIS WAS...

AND?

HE EXPRESSED HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY TO "MUFF A SQUID" WITHOUT HIM.

HRMPT!

WHAT ABOUT STRANGE?

NOTHING. FOR DAYS NOW.

AND IT'S NOT JUST A LACK OF RESPONSE... HIS IMPLANT HAS DISAPPEARED--HE'S COMPLETELY OFF-GRID.

IT IMPLIES THAT HE'S LEFT THIS WORLD FOR SOME OTHER PLANE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, IT'S SUBTERFUGE...AND THE GOOD DOCTOR SEEKS A SAVVY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GAME TO END ALL GAMES.

SHOULD WE WAIT? OR...

I DON'T THINK WE CAN.

HENRY, PLEASE...

LET'S SHOW EVERYONE WHAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED.

YES. WELL... OBSERVATION.

CATALOGING INCURSIONS HAS, AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW, BEEN A BLEAK AND DISHEARTENING ENDEAVOR. I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE WHICH IS WORSE...

THE WAY ALL WORLDS END: HORRIBLY.

OR THE SHOCKINGLY REPETITIVE NATURE OF WHAT WE'RE LEARNING...

"EITHER BLACK PRIESTS AGGRESSIVELY PROTECTING THEIR ARCANE HOME EARTHS...

"MAPMAKERS SYSTEMATICALLY MINING THE MULTIVERSE FOR EARTHS TO DESTROY...

"OR TWO UNIVERSES DYING AS EARTHS COLLIDE."

THE THING, HOWEVER, ABOUT REPETITION IS IF YOU WITNESS SOMETHING ENOUGH TIMES, YOU BEGIN TO PICK UP ON INCREMENTAL DIFFERENCES.

IN THIS CASE, I NOTICED SOMETHING ODD... *DECAY.*

DECAY?

YOU MEAN OF THE IMAGE? SOUND? WHAT?

*TIME.* I'M NOT AS PROFICIENT AS... ACTUALLY...

REED, IT'S THE SPECIFICS OF *YOUR* MACHINE, COULD YOU...?

OF COURSE.

THINK OF IT LIKE DOPPLER SHIFT.

THE SAME NOISE SOUNDS DIFFERENT APPROACHING YOU THAN MOVING AWAY FROM YOU.

ROUGHLY THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIES CELESTIALLY--RED AND BLUE SHIFT FOR THE CONTRACTION AND EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT HENRY NOTICED IS, FUNDAMENTALLY, THIS SAME CONCEPT.

AS YOU KNOW, THE BRIDGE PRIMARILY FUNCTIONS AS AN OBSERVATION DEVICE.

THE DATA SET FOR RUNNING A SEARCH THROUGH BOTH ALL REALITIES AND ALL TIMES IS INFINITE, AND THEREFORE NOT OBSERVABLE. WELL, OBSERVABLE IN THE SENSE THAT--

YOU'RE MAKING MY TEETH HURT, REED.

ALL RIGHT, THE POINT: IF WE TRIED TO DO THAT--LOOK AT EVERYTHING--THE MACHINE WOULD NEVER STOP THINKING, AND WE WOULD NEVER GET TO "SEE" ANY RESULTS.

SO WHEN I BUILT IT, I LIMITED IT TO TAKING...FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, A ***SNAPSHOT*** OF ALL REALITIES AT THAT SINGLE MOMENT.

AND THAT'S WHAT THE BRIDGE SEARCHES...SNAPSHOTS OF MULTIVERSES, STACKED SIDE-BY-SIDE.

ONCE WE FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR--UP UNTIL NOW, INCURSIONS--WE BASICALLY TUNE INTO THAT MULTIVERSAL "STATION" AND OBSERVE THAT SNAPSHOT GOING FORWARD. WHICH BRINGS US TO HENRY...

AND HOW THINGS ARE WORSE THAN WE EVER IMAGINED.

MANY WORLDS IMPLIES MANY VARIABLES. PERHAPS ON ONE EARTH, THE SOVIET UNION NEVER FELL. ON ANOTHER, MAN NEVER LANDED ON THE MOON.

THIS IS PRETTY MUCH THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY PIECE OF BAD SCIENCE FICTION EVER WRITTEN.

BUT IT'S ***REAL*** AND WE'RE SEEING IT--AND IN SEEING IT OFTEN, I BEGAN TO NOTICE THINGS THAT SEEMED TOO...OFF. TEMPORALLY SPEAKING.

AH! YOU MEAN...IT'S LIKE SEEING STARS IN THE NIGHT SKY, DON'T YOU? EACH ONE A DIFFERENT DISTANCE AWAY, AND THEREFORE THE LIGHT A DIFFERENT AGE AND...

YES.

OH, THEN THAT MEANS...

YES.

LOOK, I'M A BILLIONAIRE INVENTOR--CONSIDERED PRETTY SMART BY MOST...

AND, OH MY GOD, I'M GOING TO ***KILL*** ONE OF YOU IF YOU DON'T JUST SPIT IT OUT.

HE MEANS THE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CENTER POINT OF OBSERVATION, WE'RE NOT JUST LOOKING AT DIFFERENT UNIVERSES...WE'RE LOOKING AT DIFFERENT ***TIMES***.

SO WE CAN USE THIS TO LOOK INTO THE PAST AS WELL AS THE FUTURE.

ACTUALLY, MOSTLY JUST THE PAST. WE'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE FUTURE'S PROBABILITY CURVE BENDS THE OPPOSITE WAY.

THERE ARE ONLY MINUTES, MAYBE AN HOUR OR TWO DEPENDING ON PROXIMITY, OF OBSERVABLE FUTURE.

SO YOU'RE THINKING THAT WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN FURTHER INVESTIGATE...AND PERHAPS FIND THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS END-TIMES-END-OF-MAN DRAMA.

GET RIGHT TO THE HEART OF IT.

ANTHONY... I ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE A LITTLE MORE AMBITIOUS IN YOUR THINKING.

AFTER ALL, THE REALLY ***GOOD*** STUFF IS GROWING ON THE SKIN.

RIGHT. THANKS.

BUT I THINK THE REST OF US WOULD AGREE THAT WE'RE BETTER OFF STAYING ON TASK.

ACTUALLY...

HE HAS A POINT. HENRY AND I DID EXACTLY WHAT MAXIMUS IS TALKING ABOUT. AND IT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU ALL TO SEE...

CONCLUSIONS-- GOOD ONES--ALL SPRING FROM RAW DATA. WE QUESTIONED THE PURITY OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.

CONSIDERING OUR SOURCE, REED AND I DECIDED TO RUN A BROADER SEARCH.

FOR WHAT?

SWANS.

"THE A.I. RUNNING THE BRIDGE'S SEARCH FUNCTION IS STILL SPOOLING THROUGH MULTIPLE SEARCH RETURNS...

"BUT SO FAR WE'VE FOUND THREE INSTANCES CONTAINING THE PERSON WE BELIEVE TO BE *OUR* BLACK SWAN.

"THIS IS THE FIRST ONE."





YOU MAY COME OUT NOW, CHILD.

IS IT DEAD?

THE BLACK PRIESTS ARE NOT ALIVE IN THE SENSE THAT YOU AND I ARE, YABBOT.

THEY ARE MORE LIKE... ANIMATED *THINGS* THAT FEIGN LIFE. ABOMINATIONS THAT CHEAT THE GREAT WHEEL.

WE CAN DESTROY THEM-- ALL *THINGS* CAN BE DESTROYED--BUT THAT IS NOT WHY WE ARE HERE, IS IT?

NO.

THE LIBRARY LIES ON A SEPARATE AXIS THAN THE WORLDS TO WHICH IT OPENS. SO WHILE IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU LEFT THIS PLACE-- AND IT IS LONG GONE-- WE HAVE RETURNED MERE MOMENTS AFTER YOU FOUND YOUR WAY TO US.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

OF COURSE I AM.

"THEN HURRY, LITTLE SISTER.

"I WILL HOLD THE DOOR OPEN AS LONG AS I CAN."

I'M SORRY, DADINGRA...

THEY HAVE TAUGHT ME THAT RABUM ALAL HAS NEEDS GREATER THAN OUR OWN--WE ALL SERVE THE WHEEL...

BUT THERE ARE REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL.

AND I WILL BE FAITHFUL.

FOR THE BOTH OF US.

BOOM!

WHAT IIIIIIIIS THIIIIIIIIIIS?

A LIIIIIIITTLE SWAN LOST HER WAY?

NO, YOU MONSTER... I'M *NOT* LOST.

THIS WAS MY *HOME!*

ZZZZAAAAAAAAMMM!

DO YOU HAVE IT?

YES!

LET'S GO!

ONCE AGAIIIIIIIN, THEY MOVE TO THAT OTHER PLACE WE CANNOT FIIIIIIIND.

ALL THOSE WORLDS, HIIIIIIDIIIIIIG BEHIIIIIND THOSE DOORS.

LOST TO US. OUTSIIIIDE OUR REACH.

PERHAPS... PERHAPS NOT.

WE NOW HAVE A KEY.

AND THAT'S WHERE IT ENDS REGARDING THE BLACK SWAN.

THE PRIESTS LEAVE SHORTLY AFTER DESTROYING THE WORLD, AND IT SEEMS THAT THE BRIDGE CANNOT OBSERVE PAST THE DOOR...

MEANING...THIS LIBRARY LIES OUTSIDE THE OBSERVABLE MULTIVERSE.

DOES IT MATTER? DIDN'T THE SWAN SAY IT WAS DESTROYED?

I THINK, PERHAPS, WE MIGHT NEED TO REVISIT WHAT IS AND IS NOT ACCEPTED TRUTH REGARDING HER.

BEFORE WE GET TO THAT... HERE'S THE SECOND THING WE FOUND.

MY GOD.

WHY DOES IT END LIKE THAT? ISN'T THERE MORE?

NO. IT JUST WINKS IN AND OUT OF...I'M NOT SURE IF ***EXISTENCE*** IS THE CORRECT PHRASE, BUT IT'S ***THERE*** AND THEN IT'S ***NOT***.

BUT IT GETS WORSE.

"WATCH."

LIKE THIS. KI WASSURU.

WHY?

AND THAT'S IT?

THAT'S ALL THERE IS?

WE GIVE HIM PRAISE BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN HIS NAME.

WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH...AND LOOK WHAT HE HAS GIVEN US: A GREATER OFFERING.

A NEW WORLD.

WERE YOU EXPECTING MORE, *RICHARDS?*
DID I PROMISE YOU MORE?
ALL WE WANTED TO DO WAS SAVE OUR WORLD.
AND I TOLD YOU... MANY, MANY TIMES...
THERE IS *NO SAVING* YOUR WORLD. THERE IS NO SAVING... ANYTHING.
THERE IS ONLY THE WHEEL.
SUHARRURU! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS HAS COST US?
WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO HELP YOU, *BELIEVING* THAT THIS COULD BE AVOIDED?
YES, *ANTHONY.* YOU'VE SACRIFICED ALL THAT YOU HAD.
YOU FOUND THIS WORLD'S *MANIFOLD* SO THAT *HE* COULD BE USED AS RABUM ALAL INTENDED...
YOU'VE KILLED THOSE YOU CALLED FRIENDS...
AND YOU'VE DONE IT VERY, VERY WELL.
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOUR REWARD.
WE CAN STOP YOU.

YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T.

SO... WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

OF COURSE YOU DO. YOU CAN COME WITH ME, OR DIE HERE WITH YOUR EARTH.

BUT SURELY A CLEVER MAN LIKE YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY.

FLAME ON!

NO.

?

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT I NEEDED TO.

HE WAS BRILLIANT LIKE THE SUN...SO THAT'S WHERE I SENT HIM.

LAST CHANCE, STARK.

ARE YOU A KILLER OF WORLDS...OR JUST YOUR OWN?

YOU GO TO HELL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK EARTH *IS*, LITTLE MAN?

SKK-

AKK!

SO...WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?

NECROPOLIS.
LATER.

DAMU RABUM ALAL! DAMU UGGAE!

NAPAHU QUPPU! YABBOT DUGNAMTAR!

WARDUM ANA SIMTIM ALAKU.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU STUPID, STUPID MEN?

RABUM ALAL IS COMING FOR *EVERYTHING.*

AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND *WHAT* HE IS--WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND *WHO* HE IS...

YOU'LL KNOW THAT I WAS RIGHT, AND YOU SO COMPLETELY WRONG.

ANA SIMTIM ALAKU.

THEN YOU WILL DIE, THINKING OF ME...WHO WILL BE SO VERY LONG GONE.

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

*MAKE PEACE WITH FINALITY, SWAN...*

*YOU'RE NEVER GETTING OUT OF THAT CELL.*

EPILOGUE.

I WILL NOT TELL YOU THAT YOU WON'T MISS YOUR FREEDOM.

YOU WILL.

BUT I HAVE FOUND THAT...THIS EXISTENCE PROVIDES ME THE SOLITUDE NECESSARY TO TRULY CONTEMPLATE OUR PLACE IN THESE...THE LAST GASPS OF A DYING MULTIVERSE.

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO BE THANKFUL?

THIS IS THE WISDOM OF TERRAX THE ENLIGHTENED?

I'M SAYING THAT IN HERE IT SEEMS EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME, WHILE OUT THERE EVERYTHING CONTINUES TO DIE.

I BELIEVE IN THE WHEEL--I DO NOT SEEK LIFE, HERALD.

I AM NOT LOOKING TO SAVE MYSELF OR AVOID MY FATE!

LIFE. DEATH. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? TIME? WHAT FOOL SEES THAT AS A CONSTANT?

IT'S ALL YOUR WHEEL, ISN'T IT? DO THE TWO NOT BECOME THE SAME?

YOU HAVE A POINT TO MAKE?

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE *MAD TITAN* COURTED DEATH--NOT UNLIKE YOURSELF.

TELL ME... HAVE YOU NOTICED WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THANOS' CUBE?

LIFE.

I HAVE CONTEMPLATED OUR SITUATION AND ARRIVED AT A PROFOUND TRUTH.

WOULD YOU CARE TO HEAR IT, MISTRESS?

YES.

THERE ARE NO CONSTANTS.

THEY COULD NO MORE KEEP US HERE FOREVER, THAN THEY COULD REMAIN FREE THEMSELVES...

THEY WILL FALL--ALL MEN DO.

AND WHAT FOLLOWS WILL BE A RECKONING.

NEW AVENGERS

# THE ASSEMBLY!

## YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

### IT'S A BIG MONTH FOR THE AVENGERS AS PART OF **ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!**



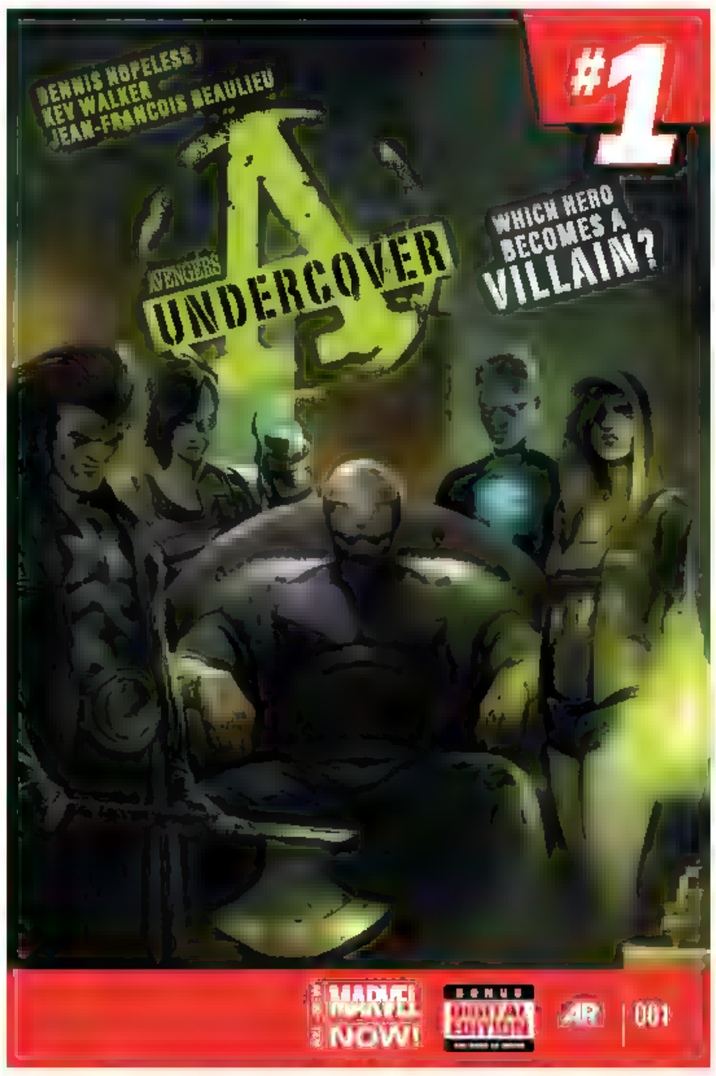

**NEW AVENGERS #16.NOW** is the beginning of "A PERFECT WORLD" as the Illuminati, searching for a solution to the Incursions from parallel universes, find an Earth that has managed to survive all its Incursions! But to save our planet, must they doom that one? Jonathan Hickman combines powers with artist Rags Morales, doing his first major Marvel work!




**UNCANNY AVENGERS #18.NOW** begins "AVENGE THE EARTH!", the third and final chapter of Rick Remender's Apocalypse Twins magnum opus! The human race is gone, Havok is on the run--and wait'll you see returning artist Daniel Acuña's spectacular renditions of Planet X, the new mutant homeworld!




**SECRET AVENGERS #1** is the start of a new era for S.H.I.E.L.D.'s covert special missions squad! Spider-Woman is in, Hawkeye is out (but still hanging around) and M.O.D.O.K. is running wild! And in a forgotten satellite, the hero-killing cybiote called The Fury stirs… Ales Kot and Michael Walsh blow the lid off!




In **AVENGERS UNDERCOVER #1**, the survivors of AVENGERS ARENA have to live with the fallout of their actions while in the game! And for one of them, that means seeking out and killing Arcade—even though he's hiding in Bagalia, the super-villain nation! Dennis Hopeless and Kev Walker bring the pain!

## NEXT ISSUE:




## AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

**AVENGERS #27**
"ADAPT OR DIE!" SHOUT THE ADAPTOIDS!

**AVENGERS A.I. #10**
MONICA CHANG AND JOCASTA: ROGUE ROBOT HUNTERS!

**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #25**
ALL-OUT WAR IN NEW YORK CITY! PLUS, SPIDER-GIRL FINAL ISSUE!

**AVENGERS UNDERCOVER #1**
WHICH SURVIVORS OF AVENGERS ARENA WILL BREAK BAD?

**AVENGERS WORLD #4**
STARBRAND FACES HIS WORST NIGHTMARE IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD!

**MIGHTY AVENGERS #8**
THE BLUE MARVEL'S GREATEST MISTAKE COMES BACK TO THREATEN THE TEAM!

**NEW AVENGERS #16**
THE ILLUMINATI LOCATE A WORLD THAT HAS DRIVEN OFF THE INCURSIONS! MUST THEY DESTROY IT?

**SECRET AVENGERS #1**
RUN THE MISSION! DON'T GET SEEN! SAVE THE WORLD!

**UNCANNY AVENGERS #18**
"AVENGE THE EARTH!" BEGINS ON PLANET X—THE NEW MUTANT HOMEWORLD!

**A + X #18**
BENDIS WRITES KITTY PRYDE AND THE VISION! DUGGAN FINISHES CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS!

**ALSO ON SALE!**

**MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #6**

**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!** E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

JONATHAN HICKMAN
RAGS MORALES
FRANK MARTIN

#1

NEW AVENGERS®

MIKE DEODATO JR.

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

016. NOW

# PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

EVERYTHING DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT. WHAT I FIND ***UNACCEPTABLE*** IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

"EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED, OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

"WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THE INCURSIONS SO WE'LL KNOW WHEN ONE IS COMING. HOWEVER...

"INFINITE WORLDS, INFINITE OUTCOMES. IF THIS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED."

BLACK SWAN. I'M TOLD YOU JUMPED HERE FROM ANOTHER WORLD...THAT YOU HAD SOME KIND OF DEVICE, AND THEN YOU DESTROYED THE PLANET.

THE TURN OF THE WHEEL BREAKS HOPE--IT CRUSHES WHAT MAKES US DECENT AND STEALS WHAT LITTLE HONOR REMAINS.

YOU WILL NEED THE MIRROR FOR ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES, BUT YOU SHOULD PRIMARILY CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH THE BLACK PRIESTS.

ALL INCURSIONS HAVE THE SAME PARAMETERS AND CAN BE FOUND AND OBSERVED THROUGH A PROCESS. I CAN BUILD IT. I'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE BEFORE. WHAT SHE CALLS A MIRROR, I CALLED THE BRIDGE.

YOU UNDERSTAND. IF YOU USE THE MIRROR AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...

"...YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRING."

CRACK

*THAT WAS YOUR LAST CHANCE, STARK.*

*SO...WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?*

RABUM ALAL IS COMING FOR ***EVERYTHING***. AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU'LL KNOW THAT I WAS RIGHT AND YOU WERE WRONG.

THEN YOU WILL DIE THINKING OF ME... WHO WILL BE SO VERY LONG GONE.

# THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT

Celestial Messiah



NAMOR

Imperius Rex



REED RICHARDS

Universal Builder



IRON MAN

Master of Machines



BEAST

Mutant Genius



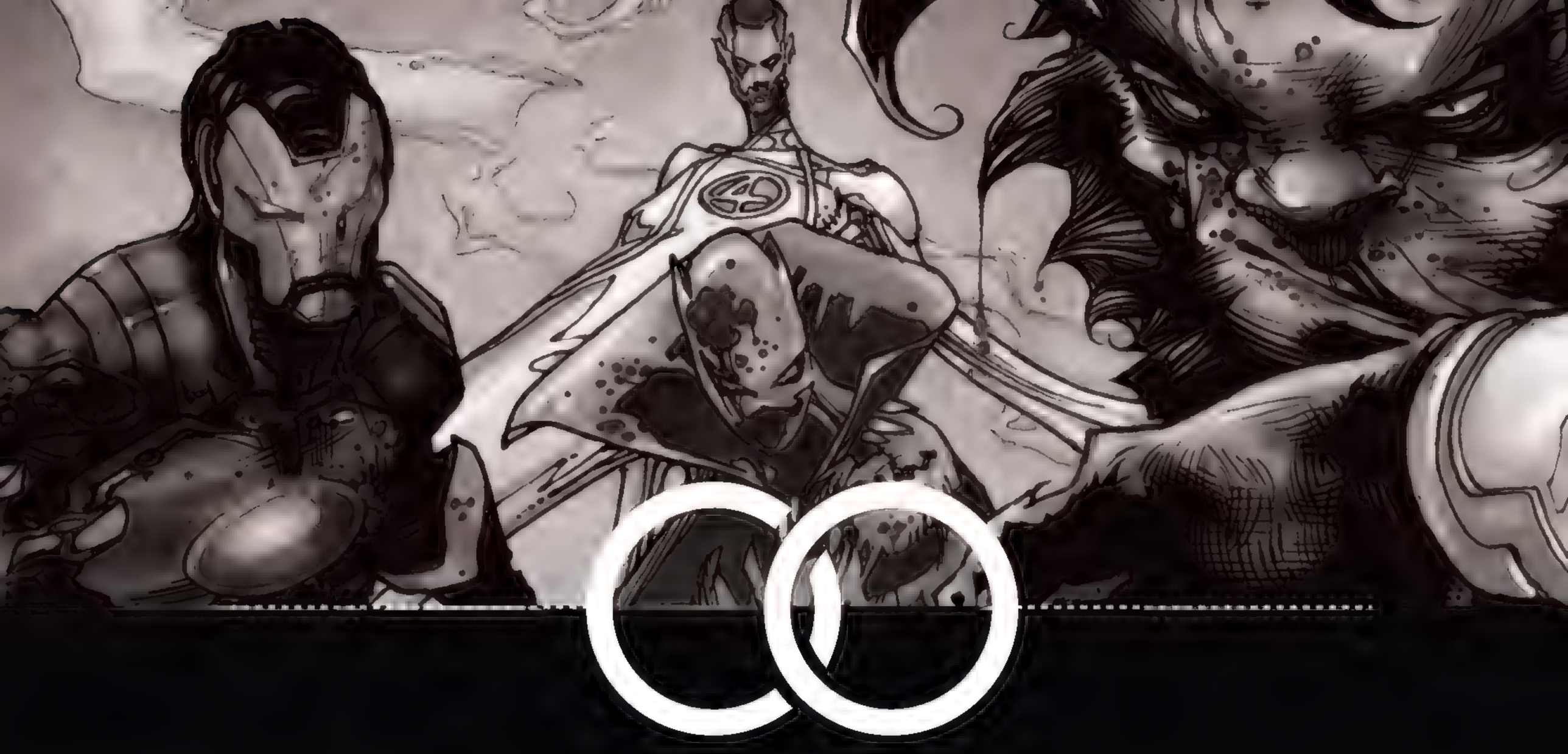
DOCTOR STRANGE

Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER

King of the Dead



# 00

## "A PERFECT WORLD"

WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN
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WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.

"RECORD."

CATALOGING...

TIME STAMP: 12:02:12:089. OBSERVED INCURSION CLAIMS BOTH WORLDS.

UPON CLOSER EXAMINATION, THE DETONATION TIMES OF BOTH PLANETS DOES NOT SEEM SIMULTANEOUS.

RECOMMEND UPGRADING DATA SPHERES TO RECORD ALL FUTURE EVENTS AT 12,000 FRAMES PER SECOND. FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS...

→SNIFF←

PAUSE RECORDING.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?

I'M NOT SURPRISED TO SEE THE GREAT MEN HAVE BUILT YET ANOTHER GREAT MACHINE. I ***WAS***, HOWEVER, SURPRISED TO HEAR RUMORS OF ***THE BIRD*** BEING PUT BACK IN HER CAGE.

IS IT TRUE?

YOU'VE TALKED TO REED.

I HAVE. HE SAID YOU DID IT BECAUSE YOU SAW THE BLACK SWAN DOING ***EVIL THINGS*** ON ***ALIEN WORLDS***--HER SERVING HER MASTER, A TRUE DEVOTED NIHILIST.

YOU LEARNED THIS FROM THE MACHINE?

YES...

***THE BRIDGE*** MINES OTHER REALITIES.

WE CAN USE IT TO SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED ON OTHER WORLDS. TIME IS SOMEWHAT VARIABLE... WHICH IS HOW WE SAW WHO, AND ***WHAT***, SHE REALLY IS.

THE ABILITY NOT JUST TO SEE WHAT SOMEONE HAS ***DONE***, BUT ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT THEY ***MIGHT*** HAVE DONE. A TRUE ACCOUNTING OF ONE'S POTENTIAL.

WHAT A WONDER...

TELL ME, T'CHALLA, HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO RESIST CHECKING TO SEE ON HOW MANY EARTHS YOU STILL RULE YOUR PEOPLE?

WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE ON HOW ***FEW*** YOU STILL RULE YOURS, NAMOR?

SO YOU LOOK FOR HOPE, THEN...IN THE HOPELESS?

I'M LOOKING FOR SEVERAL THINGS: MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM THE SWAN...

I'M ALSO TRYING TO FIND SOME WAY TO AVOID, OR DELAY, AN INCURSION.

YES. LIKE I SAID, *HOPING*... POINTLESS FINALITY TRAPPED IN AN EVEN *MORE* POINTLESS WEB.

WATCHING THE SAME THING HAPPEN OVER AND OVER.

EVERYTHING DYING...AND ALL THAT.

NOT QUITE. SO FAR I'VE CATALOGED THE DEATHS OF ALMOST FORTY WORLDS.

A SHOCKING MAJORITY OF INCURSIONS OCCUR UNOPPOSED. I'VE SEEN THIRTY EARTHS, AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING UNIVERSES, DESTROYED WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OF ANY KIND.

"I HAVE SEEN *THE MAPMAKERS* AND THEIR MINIONS DEVOUR FIVE OTHERS.

"TWO HAVE FALLEN TO *THE BLACK PRIESTS.*"

HOWEVER...

THERE IS ONE WORLD I HAVE RECORDED THAT HAS SURVIVED TWO INCURSIONS IN WAYS DIFFERENT THAN OUR OWN.

THEY'VE FOUND SOME NEW, MORE CREATIVE WAY TO DESTROY A WORLD?

SOMETHING USEFUL?

NO. THIS WAS... DIFFERENT.

SHOW ME.

"THE GREAT SOCIETY WAS FORMED FOUR YEARS AGO AFTER *ARCHETYPES OF J.U.S.T.I.C.E.* FELL DURING *THE INVASION.*

"SIX HEROES OF *THE ANTI-HEROIC AGE*, THE SOCIETY--OUTCASTS ALL--BANDED TOGETHER TO REPEL THE MAD SCIENCE OF *THE XENO-GENETICISTS.*

"MEN WERE NOT MEANT TO BE REMADE BY ALIEN GODS, AND WHEN THOSE GODS WERE CAST OUT, THE AGE OF J.U.S.T.I.C.E. HAD ENDED AND THE GREAT SOCIETY HAD BEGUN.

"THEY SAVED THE WORLD AND WERE LIFTED UP AS SAVIORS.

"THEIR HOME WAS A TEMPLE-- A MONUMENT ERECTED FOR *THE SCIENCE GAMES.*

"A TOWER POINTING TO THE STARS, AND POSSIBLY SOMETHING BEYOND EVEN THAT.

"THEY WERE THE GREATEST HEROES THEIR WORLD HAD EVER SEEN.

"THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH."

I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED TO SEE *YOU* HERE...

...IS SOMETHING WRONG, SUN GOD?

*THE NORN* HAS HAD A VISION.

WE'VE BEEN CALLED TO THE TOWER.

OKAY.

JUST ONE MORE AND THEN I'M FINISHED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP DOING THIS, WAYNE.

YOU'RE WRONG, ZORAN.

YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD-- DID EVERYTHING THAT WAS *POSSIBLE*.

OVER ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE DIED HERE. MOTHERS AND SONS. FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS...ALL BECAUSE I FAILED.

WHO CARES IF I DID EVERYTHING I COULD?

IT WASN'T *ENOUGH.*

THEY EXPECT US TO BE BETTER THAN WHAT'S POSSIBLE.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT I REMEMBER THAT.

UNDERSTAND?

THE TOWER.

THE FORCES OF ORDER ARE IN *CHAOS.*

THE WORLD *ONCE AGAIN* IS IN... ALIGNMENT.

SO... INCURSION.

ANOTHER ONE.

I HAVE CHECKED THE ORBS. ALL THE SPHERES REMAIN UNFAZED EXCEPT THIS ONE.

UNLESS WE FALL.

THEN ALL THE SPHERES WILL SHATTER.

IT'S CONSISTENT. THE SAME EVERY TIME. I CAN FEEL THE HARMONICS FROM HERE...

PITCH AND FREQUENCY INCREASE.

THERE WILL BE MORE...AND SOON.

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP DOING WHAT WE'RE DOING...

AND DO IT UNTIL WE DIE.

NO.

EVERYTHING LIVES.

IT LIVES BEFORE IT DIES, AND WE ARE JUDGED BY WHAT WE DO DURING THAT TIME.

LIKE A BRILLIANT, LIFE-GIVING STAR, WE ILLUMINATE THE UNIVERSE, CHASING AWAY THE SHADOWS. WE CREATE LIFE AND THEN CELEBRATE THAT CREATION.

THIS IS SIMPLY HOW THINGS ARE.

IT CANNOT BE CONTAINED.

IT NEVER WILL.

THE RIDER
DOCTOR SPECTRUM
THE JOVIAN
BOUNDLESS
THE NORN
SUN GOD
SO WE WILL NOT TOLERATE--WE WILL NOT *ACCEPT*-- THE UNNATURAL OCCURRENCE OF AN EARLY END.
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE...
TO BEAT BACK THE NIGHT...AND TO CONQUER DEATH.
EARTH-4,290,001.

WE'VE FOUND A WAY EACH TIME.

PUSH THE WORLD BACK THROUGH. MOVE A PLANET THROUGH TIME-- FRACTURING AND THEN RESEALING THE BREACH...

WE ARE ONLY LIMITED BY OURSELVES. WE WILL FIND YET ANOTHER WAY.

BECAUSE OUR REAL ENEMY... IS FEAR.

FEAR THAT WE WILL FAIL. FEAR THAT THESE EVENTS WILL FORCE US TO BECOME SOMETHING LESS THAN WHAT WE ARE.

BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER.

WE WILL FIND A WAY.

ARE YOU WITH ME?

DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK?

THE HINTERLANDS OF THE EGYPTIAN EMPIRE.

THE WALL MUST BE CLOSE.

IT'S HERE. I CAN FEEL IT.

YEAH. FOUND IT.

READY?

YES. LET'S GO.

THERE...

BLUE INCURSION MEANS *SIDERA MARIS.*

A BROKEN WORLD TO MARK TERRITORY FOR THE MAPMAKERS.

DEFEAT THEM BEFORE THEY CAN SUMMON THEIR MASTERS.

LEAVE THE *WORLD* ITSELF FOR THE NORN.

SECOND MAPPED WORLD IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, NORN...

I'M SORRY THERE HASN'T BEEN MORE TIME BETWEEN THEM.

THEY ARE A *VIRUS*, RIDER.

A SELF-REPLICATING DISEASE MEANT TO DESTROY THE GREATER MULTIVERSAL HUMAN CULTURE.

SO I DO WHAT I MUST.

THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE ANCHOR PLANET, THIS SHELL OF AN EARTH.

NORN, YOU ALMOST COULDN'T CONTAIN IT LAST TIME...WILL YOU BE STRONG ENOUGH?

I HAVE TO BE. AND I *BORROW LIVES* BECAUSE THIS CANNOT BE DONE BY *ONE* PERSON...

GOD, I HATE THIS.

THAT'S NOT HOW *THE WORDS OF POWER* WORK.

THEY CANNOT BE USED BY A SINGLE MAN...

SO I ENDURE THE COST.

*HRRNNNNN!*

KA-BOOOOOM!

WELL...

THAT *IS* SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

NEW AVENGERS

NEW AVENGERS®

LEINIL CURIEL

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

HICKMAN
MORALES
MARTIN

017

*PREVIOUSLY IN*

# THE GREAT SOCIETY


BOUNDLESS


DR. SPECTRUM


SUN GOD

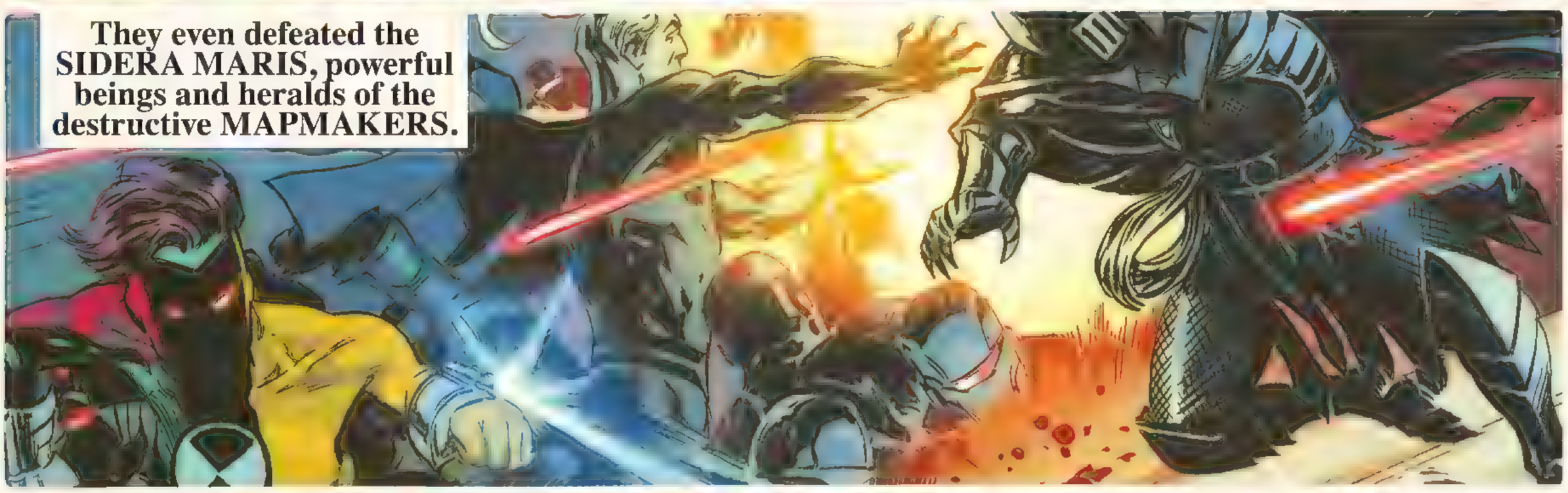

THE RIDER


THE JOVIAN


THE NORN


EVERYTHING LIVES.
IT LIVES BEFORE IT DIES, AND WE ARE JUDGED BY WHAT WE DO DURING THAT TIME. SO WE WILL NOT TOLERATE--WE CANNOT *ACCEPT*--THE UNNATURAL OCCURRENCE OF AN EARLY END. WHICH IS WHY I'VE SUMMONED YOU HERE...
TO BEAT BACK THE NIGHT... AND TO CONQUER DEATH.

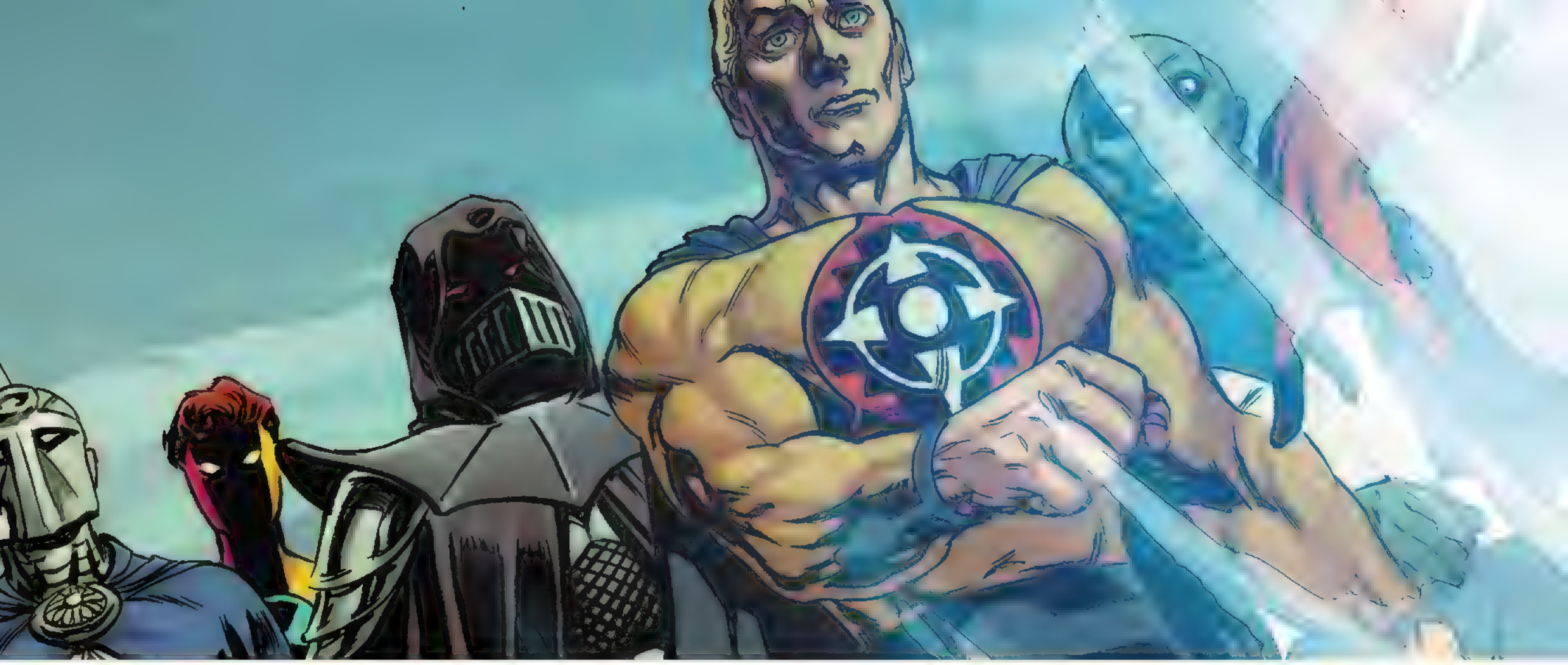

And so THE GREAT SOCIETY-- six heroes of the ANTI-HEROIC AGE, outcasts all--banded together to repel the planetary incursions.











# "A PERFECT WORLD II"

**EDITOR'S NOTE: PLEASE MAKE SURE TO READ THIS WEEK'S AVENGERS #28 BEFORE THIS ISSUE.**

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# KRAGGOOOM

THE GREATER EGYPTIAN EMPIRE. EARTH-4,290,001.

INCURSION.

UHHHH....

IT'S DONE... THE DEAD WORLD IS DESTROYED...

AND AT GREAT COST... BUT IT'S... IT'S...

HEY, IT'S OKAY.

YOU DID MORE THAN ENOUGH.

I'M PUTTING YOU IN STASIS TO HEAL.

THE NORN HAS SACRIFICED BOTH OF THE PARALLEL LIVES HE SUMMONED FROM ALL HIS POTENTIAL FUTURES...

LIVES ONLY CREATED FROM FUTURE CHOICES HE WOULD MAKE. I WEEP FOR THE LIFE HE IS NOW FORCED TO LIVE.

NO, STOP... NO STASIS...

YOU...YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I WAS...TOO LATE. THE DEAD WORLD WAS TOO LOW...

LET'S BE HONEST, JOVIAN.

FUTURE PLANS-- ANY OF THEM--ARE A LUXURY WE JUST DON'T HAVE.

THE REMAINS WERE CAUGHT ON OUR SIDE WHEN THE INCURSION WALL COLLAPSED.

I...FAILED... AND THE SIDERA MARIS WERE SUCCESSFUL...

OH, NO.

BZZTT!

WOR...

BZZTT!

WORLD.

BZZTT!

MAPPED.

FWASSHH

NEW WORLDS.

NEVER ENOUGH WORLDS.

INCURSION POINT ANALYSIS?

THREAT LEVEL: ASSESSING...

POSTHUMAN DENSITY: ELEVATED.

CATALOGING...

*MAPMAKERS!* FOUR OF THEM!

BOUNDLESS! QUICKLY, BEFORE THEY CAN ADAPT AND--

ALREADY.

ON IT.

BOSS.

ADAPTATION OCCURS...

...IN THE CENTRAL A.I.

IF I CAN ACCESS IT...

...BEFORE IT CAN--

GOT IT! ONE DOWN... THREE TO--

AIIEEEE!!

INITIAL THREAT CONTAINED.

PROCEED TO SECONDARY TARGETS--ENGAGE BY THREAT PRIORITIES.

THEY'RE *ADAPTING!*

ENGAGING MEGAMORPH-- ESTIMATING SINGLE UNIT SUFFICIENT.

ENGAGE TERTIARY TARGETS.

IN OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER WITH THE MAPMAKERS, THEY SHOWED LETHAL ADAPTABILITY WHEN FIGHTING JUST ONE OR TWO PEOPLE.

IF THE JOVIAN CAN HOLD, THEN YOU, ME AND--

NO, WAYNE... THE NORN AND BOUNDLESS ARE DOWN. I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE THIS TIME.

SPECTRUM... CAN YOU PROTECT THE OTHERS?

I'M MUCH STRONGER IN A PASSIVE STATE-- MY SHIELDS WILL HOLD.

JOVIAN!

ALREADY READING YOUR MIND, ZORAN.

I'VE GOT BOUNDLESS.

HEEYYYY, THANKSSSS...

ASSESSING...

ANOMALY.

POST-UNIVERSAL.

ALERT! SUMMON THE HOST! SUMMON ALL MAPMA--

NO. YOU WON'T BE DOING THAT.

NOT THIS DAY...

CONTACT...

FAILURE...

BZZTT!

HOST...

...AS THE DAY BELONGS TO ME!

HOWEVER LONG THAT MIGHT LAST.

MY GOD, ZORAN. ARE YOU..?

I'M GOOD. TIRED, BUT... GOOD.

ARE ALL OF YOU OKAY?

A LITTLE SUNBURNT...BUT SPECTRUM'S SHIELD HELD. YOU DID IT... WE WON.

NO. WE DIDN'T.

IT'S NOT OVER.

IT'S JUST BEGINNING...

THE FORCES OF ORDER ARE IN *CHAOS*... AGAIN.

THE WORLD *ONCE AGAIN* IS IN... ALIGNMENT.

THERE'S *ANOTHER* INCURSION BEGINNING.

ANOTHER ONE?

OKAY. TAKE A MOMENT. TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

IS IT BAD? YES. DO WE GIVE--

GIVE UP? IT'S NOT *GIVING UP* IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT.

LOOK AROUND. THE NORN IS AT HALF STRENGTH--*AT BEST*, AFTER ALL THIS. BOUNDLESS NEEDS TO BE CHECKED OUT--

I'M FINE. WE'LL ALL BE FINE.

NO. YOU'RE NOT.

AND NO. WE WON'T.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE HAVE TO FACE *BLACK PRIESTS* THIS TIME?

MY GOD, WHAT IF IT'S AN *IVORY KING?* WHAT THEN?

WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WHAT DO WE DO, WAYNE? IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY.

WE DO THE SAME THING WE'VE ALWAYS DONE...

WE FIGHT ON UNTIL WE CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE.

WHAT IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH?

THEN WE FALL.

AND THAT'S ALL THERE'S EVER BEEN TO IT.

ARE YOU NOT WILLING TO DIE FOR YOUR WORLD?

BECAUSE I AM.

BECAUSE I AM.

ANOTHER INCURSION...

IN THE END, UNLESS WE FIND THE CAUSE BEHIND THEM, THIS IS WHAT WE'LL FALL TO AS WELL... ATTRITION.

YES. I SUPPOSE ATTRITION IS SOMETHING ONE MIGHT WAGER ON...

ANOTHER MIGHT BE *BLIND, NECROMANTIC PRIESTS.* AND YET ANOTHER MIGHT BY *GENOCIDAL CARTOGRAPHERS...*

WHO CAN SAY, REALLY?

MYSELF, I'M TORN. PULLED ASUNDER BY ALL THE POSSIBILITIES.

YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, T'CHALLA.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO TAKE IT PERSONALLY.

BUT UNTIL I DO...

*THIS* IS CONSIDERED THE FINEST OF ATLANTEAN WINES.

LIKE SHARDS OF LIGHT FROM THE SURFACE, IT IS *PERFECTION*.

SO WE HAVE TO DRINK IT, NO?

HOW DO YOU DO IT, NAMOR?

HOW DO YOU BURY THE PART OF YOU THAT WAS GOOD AND NOBLE SO DEEP THAT ALL THAT REMAINS IS THIS?

SOME SHELL OF THE MAN YOU USED TO BE.

"LOOK AT THEM, T'CHALLA--FLYING OFF TO SAVE THE UNSAVEABLE."

THE GOOD AND NOBLE, WARRING AGAINST THE INEVITABLE. IS THAT US? IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK *WE* ARE?

YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN RIGHT AT ONE TIME. MAYBE I *WAS* THAT MAN ONCE. MAYBE YOU WERE AS WELL.

BUT THEN WE BOTH LOST OUR PEOPLE, AND OUR KINGDOMS CRUMBLED. EVEN NOW, WHILE WE DO WHAT WE MUST TO KEEP THE THINGS WE LOVE ALIVE, WE BECOME EVERYTHING THEY HATE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU BURY DEEP, MY FRIEND?

THINGS THAT HAVE DIED.

WHO IS THIS NAMOR, THE GOOD AND NOBLE?

NO MAN I KNOW.

"SO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S ALL THERE IS..."

...OUR UNAVOIDABLE END?

YES, T'CHALLA. THAT'S IT. ALL THAT'S LEFT...

EVERY PIECE OF MUSIC COMPOSED BY WAKANDAN VIRTUOSOS, EVERY SCIENTIFIC MARVEL CREATED INSIDE ITS GOLDEN WALLS, EVERY STORY OF EACH SON AND DAUGHTER OF THAT CITY...

GONE FOREVER.

AS IF IT NEVER WAS.

"WE WAR FOR FLEETING MOMENTS. NOTHING ELSE."

WELL, *I* AM FIGHTING FOR MORE--I STILL HAVE HOPE.

HOPE IS THE LAST REFUGE OF A DYING WARRIOR, T'CHALLA.

THERE'S NO BATTLE A WARRIOR CAN'T WIN, NAMOR.

I WISH THAT WERE SO...

WE WERE *KINGS*, AND NOW WE ARE THIS...

"THE GRAVE... NEVER LOSES."

I SUPPOSE AT LEAST YOU CAN TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE NO REGRETS.

I REGRET...

...MANY THINGS.

WE ALL DO.

IT MATTERS, NAMOR. THE POSITION WE'RE IN, AT THE VERY LEAST WE OWE EACH OTHER THE TRUTH.

*THE TRUTH*, YOU SAY?

HA! ONE *GLORIOUS LIE* IS WORTH A *HUNDRED* PETTY TRUTHS.

...

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK WE'RE ALL GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE.

HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

NAMOR.
LOOK.
WHAT IS IT, T'CHALLA? I--
MY GOD.
ARE WE LOOKING AT A *PAST* EVENT?
NO...
THE EVENT CURVES *AWAY* FROM US. WE'RE LOOKING AT *THE FUTURE.*

"TWO HOURS FROM NOW."

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BroadCast